

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAL-01 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 /188 W

----- 016701

R 080037Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7391

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS USUN 2014

FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS GENERAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON NEXT SESSION OF  
CONFERENCE

AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE GNERAL COMMITTEE MAY 6, AMB.  
AMERASINGHE, SRI LANKA, CHARGED ITS MEMBERS WITH CON-  
SIDERING THE DATE, VENUE AND DURATION OF THE NEXT (FIFTH)  
SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE WAS NOT CONVINCED OF THE  
VALIDITY OF THE POSITION MANY DELEGATIONS TOOK THAT IN THE  
ABSENCE OF REVISED SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXTS(SNT) NO DECISION  
WOULD BE TAKEN COVERING THE NEXT SESSION. IN REFERENCE TO  
THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT TEXT, AMERASINGHE SUGGESTED THAT IT BE  
ACCORDED THE SAME STATIS AS THE FORTHCOMING REVISED SNT'S IN  
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ORDER TO SERVE AS A PROCEDURAL DEVICE AND PROVIDE A BASIS

FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO ESTABLISH, AT THIS CONFERENCE, A PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR THE NEXT SESSION COVERING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

(A) RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES ON THE MOST CRUCIAL ISSUES RECOGNIZED AS CONSTITUTING HARD CORE OF AGREEMENT BEING SOUGHT;

(B) POSSIBLY INTERSESSIONALLY, THE 4 TEXTS WOULD BE CONSOLIDATED YET RETAINING INFORMAL CHARACTER. PURPOSE TO PRESENT COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF NEW LAW OF THE SEA;

(C) NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN INTEREST GROUPS WHICH DISAGREE WITH ONE ANOTHER. RESULTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE REPORTED TO PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THESE MAIN COMMITTEES WHO IN TURN WOULD INFORM THEIR COMMITTEES. FIRST TWO-THREE WEEKS DEVOTED TO THIS PROCESS;

(D) WHEN POINT IS REACHED A VOTE IN COMMITTEES WILL BE TAKEN ON RESPECTIVE TEXTS. THIS VOTE WILL NOT BE DECISIVE, BUT MERELY AN INDICATOR OF PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT AND NEED FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS;

(E) AFTER COMMITTEE VOTE TEXTS WOULD BE CONSOLIDATED AND FORMALIZED, AND CONFERENCE WOULD MOVE TO PLENARY STAGE;

AMERASHINGHE STATED THAT NEXT SESSION WOULD HAVE TO BE IN NEW YORK BECAUSE MANY DELEGATIONS DO NOT HAVE PERMANENT MISSIONS IN GENEVA THEREBY CAUSING COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. FURTHERMORE, GOVERNMENTS WILL FIND EXPENSES OF OPENING OFFICES THERE A HEAVY BURDEN. HE SUGGESTED, SHOULD THERE BE A SUMMER SESSION, IT BE 2 AUGUST - 17 SEPTEMBER, BACK TO BACK WITH THE GA THUS REDUCING TRAVEL COSTS FOR MANY DELEGATIONS.

2. THE FOLLOWING REGIONAL GROUPS EXPOSED FAVORABLE COMMENTS OR HAD NO OBJECTION TO A SECOND SUMMER SESSION IN GENEVA. EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUPS (JACHEK, CZECHOSLOVAKIA), WEO GROUP (AMB. GUSTAFASSON, FINLAND), LATIN AMERICAN GROUP (AMB. ZEA, COLOMBIA), ARAB GROUP (AMB. MEGUID, EGYPT), WILL ALSO HAVE A SPECIAL JUNE LOS ARAB GROUP MEETING IN TUNISIA. ASIAN GROUP (AMB. KAZEMI, IRAN) FAVOR A SHORT SUMMER SESSION WITH LARGER CONFERENCE IN 1977.

3. AFRICAN GROUP (NJENGA, KENYA) PREDOMINENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSED TO SECOND SESSION THIS SUMMER BUT AGREEABLE TO 1977 CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. HE INDICATED MOMENTUM OF THIS SESSION WAS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AND TIME WOULD BE NEEDED TO PATCH THINGS UP (NO ELABORATION).

4. GROUP OF 77 (UPADHYAY, NEPAL) FAVOR ANY EARLY 1977 SESSION IN NEW YORK. HOWEVER, SINCE AMERASHINGHE HAD PROPOSED NEW DATES FOR A SUMMER CONFERENCE, GROUP 77 WOULD

HAVE TO CONVENE ANOTHER MEETING.

5. AMB. CISSE (SENEGAL) THOUGH NOT INDICATING A TIME FOR A SECOND SESSION AGREED WITH ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT. RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TEXTS BE FORMALIZED AT END OF FIRST THREE WEEKS OF NEXT SESSION AND THAT FIRST TWO WEEKS BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO COM. I NEGOTIATIONS.

6. FOLLOWING VERBATIM REMARKS MADE BY AMB. LEARSON:

"I AM SURE THAT IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE THAT THE U.S.

QTE

DELETATION FAVORS A SUMMER SESSION. THIS SESSION HAS BROUGHT US FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS; WE MUST NOT NOW LOSE THE CHANCE TO SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES AND ACHIEVE A TREATY. WE AGREE WITH THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP THAT WE SHOULD NOT REPEAT THE PROCEDURES OF THE CURRENT SESSION. IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON. THE NEW PROCEDURES THAT YOU HAVE OUTLINED MUR. PRESIDENT, SHOULD ALLOW US TO COMCENTRATE ON THE CRITICAL ISSUES AND SPEED UP THE FINAL PROCESS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THE IDEA OF A SUMMER SESSION WITH THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING A TREATY TO WHICH WE ALL CAN SUBSCRIBE, AND CAN AGREE THAT IT BE HELD IN NEW YORK. UNQUOTE

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